



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 in the Cowie Room commencing at 7.00pm

**124. PRESENT:** Cllr. Mrs Goode (Chairman), Cllr. Woods (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Corbett, Cllr. Monks, Ms Christine Bright (Town Clerk), and Mr Ethan Kalemjian (Event and Administration Officer). Also in attendance were: Ms Katherine Patten (Beaminster School), Mr Matthew Kirkman (Beaminster Museum), Mr Douglas Beazer (Beaminster Museum/RBL), Maj Jerry Stockford (MOD), Mr John Boothby (RBL), Rev Chris Luckraft (RBL/St. Mary's) and Aidan Smith (Chair RBL Beaminster).

**125. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Turner, Cllr Anderton and Cllr. Beswarick.

**126. D-DAY 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

The Committee acknowledged the attendance of representatives of Beaminster School, Beaminster Museum, St. Mary's Church, the Royal British Legion (RBL), as well as the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Cllr. Monks outlined the UK Government initiative established in order to provide guidance and inspiration to organisations nationwide seeking to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Given the relevance of Parnham House (where the Allied landings on Utah Beach were planned) and Beaminster generally, it was mentioned that the challenge would be identifying how to make the occasion accessible and engaging (particularly for young people).

The Committee **AGREED** that the intention would be for the Council to provide a "blank canvas", in order to facilitate any plans undertaken by local organisations. It was acknowledged that local schools should ideally be involved and encouraged to participate:

Rev Chris Luckraft (RBL) stressed the need to commemorate the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee discussed the challenge posed by the fact that the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 falls on a Thursday. To make the event more accessible to all (and particularly to families) there was a suggestion that the event be split into two distinct strands

- One focusing obviously on the actual commemoration on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June (which would need due consideration, in order to strike an appropriate chord).
- The second aspect would focus on education. In an effort to encourage the widest possible interest and support, a complementary event that families could readily attend (ideally during the preceding weekend of 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> June) was discussed. In addition to promoting a general understanding of D-Day, the historical significance of the Allied Landings in Normandy, France, it could be a useful prompt for families to explore their own past.

It was **AGREED** Cllr Monks would co-ordinate contact with Parnham House and also open a discussion with Beaminster Museum about the prospect of hosting the educational event proposed for the weekend of the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.

Cllr Goode suggested starting the formal commemoration after local schools conclude on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the Beaminster Public Hall, and then progressing to the Town Square.

**127. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations of interest or dispensations were received.

**128. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**129. INFORMATION SCREEN IN THE POST OFFICE**

It was **AGREED** that it could be advantageous to have additional information screens. Cllr Monks and Cllr Woods confirmed however that the decision to purchase any further screens would depend on the outcome of the Finance & General Purposes meeting scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Woods would email Mr Kalemjian with the details of additional screens.

**130. EASTER**

Cllr Goode suggested several possible interactive trails or other activities such as an Easter egg hunt that could be hosted around Beaminster. Cllr Monks enquired about similar activities that might already be scheduled to take place at Parnham, or Prout Bridge. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Goode would email the relevant parties.

**131. BUNTING**

Cllr Corbett enquired about the availability of flags (Commonwealth) for use in the Town Square as part of the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Town Clerk confirmed that coloured flags were due to go up in the Square in May, as part of the usual town decoration. Cllr Goode expressed the need to investigate the possible budget available for additional flags. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would investigate the funds available and update the Committee when possible.

**132. SCARECROWS**

Following the results of the Monarch Trail, it was **AGREED** that the Committee would return to Scarecrows as an activity. After various ideas were put forward, it was **AGREED** that the theme for 2024 would be 'Heros & Villains'.

**133. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Cllr Goode felt that the Committee should proceed with the same plans for Christmas Lights 2024 that were followed the previous year. The Town Clerk explained that there had been administrative problems collecting payment for all the Christmas trees, and suggested that all trees for 2024 be paid for in advance. Cllr Monks suggested that it might be useful to arrange pre-payment order forms that could be prepared well ahead of the Christmas season.

**134. LITTER-PICKS**

Cllr Goode confirmed that the dates for Litter-Picks would be February 8<sup>th</sup> 2024, then every other month.

**135. LOCAL ELECTIONS**

Cllr Monks and Cllr Goode confirmed that the nomination form was live, and that a Poster was being produced.

Cllr Monks expressed concern about the lack of available drivers for the local CB3 Community Bus. It was **AGREED** that the Discover Beaminster Facebook and Instagram accounts would be a useful platform for recruiting additional volunteer drivers.

**136. THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community Engagement Committee was scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

**137. THE MEETING**

The meeting which commenced at 19.00 ended at 21.05.

Chairman

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024